

# The Brooklyn Paper

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Photo by Stefano Giovannini

A standing head-to-knee pose can help stimulate hair follicles, instructors say.

## NEW TWIST ON YOGA

Learn to meditate on your curls

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

A hyper-specific new yoga class is helping Brooklyn women with unique hair textures curl their locks while straightening their spines.

A diversity-boosting duo of yoga teachers is unrolling a series of stretching sessions intended to promote hair growth and encourage curly girls to overcome hang-ups about tousling their “tough-to-tame” hair.

The Fort Greene-based classes — which are open to curly-haired women of all races but widely attended by women of color — combine postures that purportedly help hair follicles, such as a standing head-to-knee pose, with tips about what to do with your ‘do before,

during, and after a yoga session.

“A lot of ethnic girls are worried about ‘sweating out’ their hair — it can be a real mental block,” said instructor Natalie Cosby. “We’re helping them get past that.”

Cosby’s “Yoga to the Curvy Curly” classes, which debuted last week in Fort Greene Park, also seek to bust through the stereotype that yoga is reserved for ladies with “perfect” bodies.

“We’re bringing diversity and awareness to the mat,” she said.

Yoga for a specific hair type might sound like a stretch, but this Zen-obsessed borough already boasts yoga classes for toddlers, beer buffs, and nudists.

See **YOGA** on page 9

## GARBAGE BARRAGE

Slope: MTA’s no-can plan is making neighborhood filthy

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

The MTA’s decision to remove trash cans from a busy Park Slope subway station has turned the street above into a makeshift dumpster, neighbors and business owners say.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority removed garbage receptacles inside the Seventh Avenue–Ninth Street station in an attempt to tidy up the busy F and G train stop and reduce the rat population — but Slopers claim the change has prompted straphangers to climb the stairs then toss their coffee cups, napkins, and half-eaten sandwiches on the sidewalk.

That frustrates residents and business owners who say the MTA’s “pilot program” — which calls for the removal of

trash cans to make public spaces cleaner — is about as logical as chopping down a tree to make Prospect Park greener.

John Hurley, manager of Dizzy’s Diner just a few yards from the station, said businesses work hard to keep the sidewalks clean — so the transit agency should do the same.

“Regulars are upset,” Hurley said. “They like a nice, clean neighborhood.”

Other business operators say straphangers have started stashing trash in weird places, causing a sometimes-funky smell and giving the street a less-than-appetizing appearance.

“They dump napkins and things in the trees,” said Teddy Kilabitis of Seventh Avenue Doughnuts.

The disappearance of the cans comes



Photo by Bess Adler

It’s spotless inside the Seventh Avenue — Ninth Street station after the MTA removed trash cans — but it’s a different story outside.

after outraged neighbors last year discovered that a street-cleaning contract — which supplemented the Department of Sanitation’s trash pick-up schedule on Seventh Avenue — had expired, causing on-street cans to overflow on the popular commercial stretch.

Seventh Avenue business-booster then joined forces to keep garbage under control, which is part of the reason some shop owners say they’re touchy when litter starts to accumulate.

An MTA spokesman said removing garbage cans has proven effective in the past — and that the agency exhausted other methods to get rid of rodents before implementing it.

“We have taken several steps to make the trash bags less accessible to

See **TRASH** on page 9



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

A pair of young real-estate hotshots purchased the Triangle Sports building for \$4.1 million.

## Three-pointer!

Triangle Sports site sale sets record

By Eli Rosenberg

The Brooklyn Paper

Two young real estate titans snatched up the prized Triangle Sports building steps from the soon-to-open Barclays Center — adding a crown jewel to their already impressive collection of upmarket Brooklyn properties and kicking off a

real-estate gold rush around the arena in earnest.

Redsky Capital LLC, helmed by recent Cornell graduates Benjamin Bernstein and Benjamin Stokes, purchased the three-sided structure on Flatbush Avenue for \$4.1 million — a whopping \$900 per square foot that sets a new re-

cord among comparable retail buildings in the borough, insiders say.

The rising real-estate barons would not comment on their plans or divulge anything about potential tenants for the site, which McDonald’s eyed earlier this year.

See **TRIANGLE** on page 9

## Meals vs. wheels

Cyclists: Food carts block our bike lanes

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

Inconsiderate food vendors who use Downtown bike lanes to haul their carts are recipe for disaster, concerned cyclists say.

Mobile grub slingers obstruct the Smith Street and Jay Street bike lanes and force cyclists to swerve into traffic



**MEAN Streets**

The battle for Brooklyn’s byways

while transporting their rolling snack-shacks from a garage on Clinton Street to sidewalks near Borough Hall and Metro-

tech Center every day.

There’s a reason the city painted the likeness of a bicycle — not a hot dog — on the busy street, bikers claim.

“This is not what the space is intended for,” said cycling advocate Ian Dutton. “It puts other people at risk.”

The culinary-minded lane-See **BIKES** on page 9



Community Newspaper Group / Natalie O'Neill

A food vendor blocks the Bergen Street bike lane near Nevins Street.



File photo by Aaron Short

Democratic District Leader Lincoln Restler refused to concede defeat after coming up more than 100 votes short.

## TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Restler’s district leader race a case of deja vu

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

Williamsburg’s Democratic district leader fight is too close to call thanks in part to Assemblyman Vito Lopez, the embattled party boss who political insiders say got Northern Brooklyn’s Orthodox Jewish communities to come out in droves and vote for Chris Olechowski, the candidate he hand-picked to take out one-term incumbent — and longtime Lopez critic — Lincoln Restler.

**MOSLEY’S EASY VICTORY**  
SEE PAGE 2

Olechowski came out ahead in the Sept. 13 primary and held a narrow lead of 136 votes over Restler at press time, but the incumbent refused to concede, claiming that there were still plenty of absentee ballots to go through.

“This race is too close to call yet again,” said Restler, who went through a lengthy re-count before winning the obscure, unpaid party position two years ago. “We’re going to make sure every ballot is counted.”

Political insiders say that all but 17 percent of Olechowski’s votes came from Williamsburg’s Orthodox communities — and were quick to point out that Lopez (D–Bushwick) still has some clout in that part of Northern See **RESTLER** on page 2



File photo by Stefano Giovannini

For \$30-a-head, you can get locked into famed Di Fara Pizza with Dom De Marco.

## Personal pie

Di Fara’s private pizza parties promise instant gratification

By Eli Rosenberg

The Brooklyn Paper

Di Fara Pizza has a solution for foodies and slice-lovers who want to avoid the acclaimed eatery’s legendary lines: rent the place out for a private party.

For \$30 a head, pizzaphiles can rent the eatery, as well as famed pizzaiolo Domenico De Marco, on Thursday nights for an evening of nearly all-you-can eat pizza — a dream come true

for Di Fara freaks who say a private affair at the Avenue J slice shop is akin to spending a night at the White House.

“I would have paid \$100 a head,” said Laura Valois, who recently celebrated her husband’s birthday with a fete at Di Fara. “We’re talking about Dom De Marco here. Not that many people can say they had Di Fara’s shut down and Dom See **DI FARA** on page 9



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Temperatures inside the Brooklyn Heights branch of the Brooklyn Public Library reportedly exceeded 100 degrees this summer.

## Burning books

Broken AC has made the Heights library a very hot spot all summer

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

The Fahrenheit didn’t quite hit 451, but for most of the summer it sure felt like it inside the Brooklyn Heights branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

The library has had to shut down for some of its regular hours nearly every day since mid-July because the building’s air-conditioning system has

gone haywire.

“We are in a constant battle to keep this building open and keep it safe,” said library spokesman Jason Carey.

The air conditioner, which for decades has had the beastly job of cooling the 27,000-square-foot, two-story building, finally laid down and died just as temperatures surged earlier

See **LIBRARY** on page 9

## Doubting Thomas

Street co-naming pits Gowanus legend against thieving New Jersey politician

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

Gowanus residents would love to co-name a street after beloved war vet Thomas D’Alessio — they just don’t want you to Google his name.

That’s because the deceased do-gooder known to Sackett Street neighbors as “Tommy the Mayor” shares his name with a thieving New Jersey sheriff-turned-county-chief who won’t get anything named after him but a cell block.

Google the name “Thomas

D’Alessio” and that bad Thomas — who was busted for spending campaign cash lavishly on a vacation and real estate in the 1990s — tops the results page thanks to his high-profile criminal case.

And the good Thomas’s friends don’t want the bad Thomas’s poor reputation to besmirch the name of a man known for telling stories and buying ice cream for neighborhood kids.

A web search won’t tell you that Brooklyn’s D’Alessio

fought on the front lines in the battle of Normandy in World War II and lived on Sackett Street for 91 years (well, at least not until this story gets crawled by a Google bot).

His son (also named Thomas, and also not the guy from Jersey) said his pop remained upbeat even when a drunk driver ran him down, injuring his legs, and was known to wax poetic about the Great Depression and Brooklyn’s history to anyone who would listen.

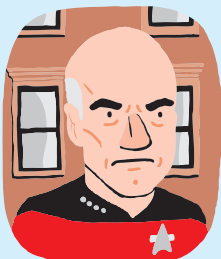
See **THOMAS** on page 9



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Thomas A. D’Alessio Jr., with a photo of his dad, for whom he wants to name a section of Sackett Street.

**CAP’N’S LOG**



STAR DATE: -311700.07

All I wanted to do was set up a new account with @TWCable\_NYC but 36hrs later I’ve lost the will to live.  
— twitter.com/SirPatStew

In this first episode, our courageous Captain, Sir Patrick Stewart — a new Park Slope resident who famously played Jean-Luc Picard on “Star Trek: The Next Generation” — battles the Time Warner Cable empire using his powerful Twitter account.

Stuck in a cable-installation time-vortex, Stewart uses his technological know-how to blast the television provider into submission.

On the next episode: whatever Sir Patrick Stewart tweets about.



Walmart officials announced last week that they will be backing out of a shopping center project in East New York.

# No sale for Brooklyn Walmart

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

Walmart announced this week that it won't be opening a store off the Belt Parkway, but the big-box store's plans for Brooklyn are not over. The controversial retail giant, which has been accused by critics of undercutting neighboring businesses and preventing its workers from unionizing, was long-rumored to be planning to open its first store in New York City at the proposed Gateway II shopping center in East New York, but

those plans were scuttled last Friday when Walmart officials said that they couldn't hammer out a deal with developers. "We were unable to agree upon economic terms for a project in East New York," said Walmart spokesman Steve Restivo — his first acknowledgement that the big box chain was even looking at the neighborhood as a possible location. Instead of a Walmart, a ShopRite supermarket will anchor the new shopping plaza once it's built, Related

Companies, which is building the shopping center, announced last week. But Walmart critics say the company has showered several Southern Brooklyn non-profit organizations with donations, and joined the fight to clean up Jamaica Bay — and the chain isn't going to let its investment in the borough go to waste. "This is more of a victory for Brooklyn labor than a defeat for Walmart," said Patrick Purcell, a spokesman for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which

is lauding Related's decision to work with ShopRite. The new supermarket will create more than 1,000 local jobs, union officials say. Councilman Charles Barron (D–Canarsie), a longtime opponent of Walmart who staged several rallies against the retail giant, celebrated Walmart's failure to get a toehold on East New York, but is now turning his usually suspicious gaze upon ShopRite. "We want to take a look at the supermarket's history," said Joy Simmons, Barron's chief of staff. "We have to

make sure they've been good corporate citizens and that they'll be an asset to the community." Restivo refused to comment on questions regarding Walmart's plans for Brooklyn, but he made it clear in his statement that the retailer still has New York City in its sights. "Two things remain constant: most New Yorkers want us here and we remain interested in providing more convenient access to Walmart for local residents," said Restivo, referencing last year's

Quinnipiac poll, which said 71 percent of Brooklynites would welcome a Walmart if it opened in Brooklyn. "Walmart will continue to evaluate local opportunities across all five boroughs." Currently, a Walmart could open anywhere: scaled-down versions of the retailer's big box stores called "Walmart Express" are about half the size of a PathMark, allowing the chain to open on major business thoroughfares in Coney Island, Midwood, Sheepshead Bay, and Park Slope.

# Ridge hipster garden

## 'Lockyard' beer garden to appeal to nabe newcomers

By Will Bredderman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Hipsters are coming to Bay Ridge — and barman Tommy Casatelli is ready for them. In anticipation of the skinny-jeans set's inevitable arrival in the neighborhood, the Kettle Black and Ho'Brah Taco Joint owner plans to debut the neighborhood's first beer garden, the Lockyard, early next year, serving an extensive selection of microbrews from around the Midwest — or, as Casatelli calls it,

Pennsylvania. Casatelli, who once cracked jokes about members of the Flannel-sporting counter culture in a viral video entitled "Sh-- People From Brooklyn Say," says his beer garden planned to be built inside the now-shuttered Bridgerview Locksmith on Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street will easily draw the hipsters who have already been seen visiting neighborhood taprooms. "A lot of different-looking people have been coming into

the Kettle Black and they are definitely not from Bay Ridge," said Casatelli. "We're getting people from Nebraska, Ohio, California, and they were all wearing the hipster uniform." The indie-music loving youngsters Casatelli spoke with said they moved to Bay Ridge after getting priced out of Williamsburg and Park Slope — and the firefighter-turned-bar owner says he's eager to welcome them with open arms. "I think it's great," Casatelli

said. "Bay Ridge needed to open its arms a bit. We've been a spaghetti and meatball and Irish bar neighborhood forever. Brooklyn's always changing and there's room for everybody." The Lockyard's Midwest theme and mid-sized backyard may remind many Brooklyn transplants of home, he says. "It's really going to be about Americana. It's going to look like somebody's backyard," Casatelli said, promising an interior design reminiscent of the classic "Sailor



Bar owner Tommy Casatelli will open a beer garden geared toward trendy young people despite its Bay Ridge location early next year.

Jerry" tattoos and a menu of hot dogs, sausages, and knishes. Craft beer lovers will be able to buy growlers — big glass urns

The 42-year-old bar owner picked the new spot's name both as a tribute to the location's history as a locksmith shop — which his uncle owned, and where he once worked — and because he claims it sounds like something from the heartland. "'Lockyard,' you know, it just sounded old-school Americana," Casatelli said. But the self-described pizza-loving "Bay Ridge kid" said the beer garden won't just be for transplants — he wants neighborhood natives to turn out, too. "I'd never want to alienate what I am and where I come from," said Casatelli. "When I was a kid, bars had Bud, Coors, Heineken, Corona, that's it. If a place had Smithwick's or something, that was a big deal."

# RESTLER...

Continued from page 1 Brooklyn, even though he's being investigated for groping, trying to kiss, and having sexually charged conversations with at least two female staffers. Restler was one of the first to demand that Lopez resign when the scandal broke — a growing rallying cry that led to Lopez's decision to step down as party boss. Yet some claim the scandal-scarred pol isn't responsible for the huge turnout that put Restler's re-election bid in jeopardy — Orthodox Jewish groups may have wanted to use this opportunity to flex their own political muscles. "The number of votes for Chris Olechowski in our neighborhood will

clearly show the following and support that the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and Satmars have in Williamsburg," an Olechowski supporter wrote in an email found by the Observer's Politicker blog. "Right or wrong, this is precisely how the political world and the media will analyze it and this will form the basis as to how the new democratic party of Brooklyn will form their alliances and loyalty. This election turnout will guide the 2013 citywide candidates in their quest for Williamsburg support." Neither Lopez nor Olechowski could be reached by press time. Restler, who had painted himself as a "reformer"

bent on taking down the party boss, has been seen as a harbinger of Lopez's downfall ever since the Assemblyman agreed to step down as party boss. Olechowski, in turn, has tried to distance himself from Lopez, calling the Assemblyman's alleged actions "reprehensible." Early in the election season, Restler racked up a number of endorsements, including Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D–Williamsburg), Borough President Markowitz, and state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D–Brooklyn Heights). Both candidates positioned themselves as agents of change in North Brooklyn, with Restler touting his accomplishments in helping secure parkland and community gardens in the neighborhood. Olechowski positioned himself as a warrior fight-

ing against the forces of gentrification. Lopez was censured and lost a key Albany committee seat as a result of the sexual harassment allegations, which are currently being investigated by Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan. The absentee ballots won't be tallied by Sept. 19, when Brooklyn's Democratic district leaders vote for a new chairperson, but the Williamsburg Democratic district leader will be there anyway, since his term in office doesn't end until December. Candidates to succeed Lopez include Canarsie district leader Frank Seddio, a longtime member of the old guard Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, Brooklyn Heights district leader Jo Anne Simon, and Assemblyman Karim Camara (D–Crown Heights).

# Mosley's easy victory

## Wins three-way race to succeed Assemblyman Jeffries

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

Walter Mosley easily trounced his competition in the three-way primary race to replace Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries on Thursday night, garnering a whopping 63 percent of the vote. When the polls closed in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, Mosley had secured nearly 4,300 votes — more than double the amount collected by his main competitor and fellow Democratic district leader Olanike Alabi, who received just over 2,000 votes. Education activist and lobbyist Martine Guerrier came

in a distant third, securing just 493 votes, according to WNYC radio. Mosley, who had been endorsed by Borough President Markowitz, Councilwoman Letitia James (D–Fort Greene), and Assemblyman Jeffries — who secured the Democratic nomination to replace outgoing Rep. Ed Towns in June — was overwhelmed by the support he received at the polls. "We knocked on thousands of doors, made thousands of calls and I am proud to say we are here today in victory," Mosley told supporters, explaining that he was looking forward to working

with James and Jeffries in the years to come. "Together, as a progressive trifecta, we will work for you." Jeffries also cheered Mosley's victory. "I can now go to Congress with great peace of mind knowing that this community is in the best hands possible," Jeffries said. Gracefully accepting defeat, Alabi said she enjoyed running for Assembly. "I am extremely proud of the race we ran, but more importantly, the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people along the way," she said. Guerrier didn't return calls

for comment. All three raised small sums of money compared to most Assembly campaigns, but said they were more interested in courting district residents rather than special interest groups. As of the most recent filing, Mosley had raised \$47,460 and Alabi had raised \$45,285. Guerrier collected just \$7,750, but said she did so on purpose. "My base can't afford to give \$100 right off the bat," Guerrier told us in an earlier interview. "I started to feel like I was a bill collector. I can see why some candidates go after the organizations and the special interests."

# THE BROOKLYN BACKSTORY

CELEBRATING THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE BOROUGH OF KINGS

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# Fort Greene & Clinton Hill

## A tale of twin communities on the rebound

By Moses Jefferson  
The Brooklyn Paper

If Brooklyn is in its renaissance, then Fort Greene and Clinton Hill are its Florence and Siena. The two sister neighborhoods best personify Brooklyn's mid-century fall and turn-of-the-aughts rise where urban decay and high crime gave way to a thriving arts community, chic restaurants, and a surging real estate market while still retaining its diverse culture. The stately neighborhoods, bordered by Park, Atlantic, Classon, and Flatbush avenues, comprise a square-mile-long architectural gallery of well-preserved, Civil War-era townhouses and brownstones in the lavish Italianate, Beaux-Arts, and East-lake styles — their tree-lined streets a witness to the demographic changes that have ushered in a new age of gastro pubs, boutiques, and bookstores to a district long a capital for African American bohemians and the black middle class. With iconic institutions like the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Fulton St. and the landmark Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower — formerly the tallest building in Brooklyn — at its border, it's hard to imagine the neighborhoods' humble beginnings. Fort Greene earned its name during the Revolutionary War when Gen. Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island oversaw the construction of a battle station in the neighborhood — a move that as-



A basketball game in Fort Greene Park.

sisted Gen. George Washington in his heroic retreat from British forces. In the 1840s, Irish immigrants

fleeing the potato famine created a shantytown along Myrtle Avenue — outraging locals who accused the newcomers of sully-

ing "this beautiful spot." Decades later, some Fort Greene residents were more open-minded, as abolitionists

Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass operated a freedom vine from the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian

Church at S. Oxford Street, hiding slaves overnight in its basement and heating tunnels before shuttling them out the next

day through a side door to their next stop on the Underground Railroad. Meanwhile, Clinton Hill, a suburban retreat named after former city mayor and state governor De Witt Clinton, developed into a sleepy, middle-class residential district — its zest best summed up by historian E. Idell Zeisloft who called it "a vast aggregation of home and family life, and of the social pleasures that appertain thereto." By the 20th century, opulent manses built by oil baron Charles Pratt helped to nickname the district Brooklyn's "Gold Coast," and its seven-block palatial strip of homes along Clinton Avenue, from Myrtle to Atlantic avenues, was heralded as one of the country's most impressive residential boulevards. Pratt left another parting legacy. His eponymous Pratt Institute — an esteemed art school that has grown out of a handsome 1896 landmark building on Willoughby St. between Classon Avenue and Hall Street — counts actors Robert Redford, Martin Landau and Harvey Fierstein, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, singer Patti Smith, and fashion designer Betsey Johnson among its alumni. The area's industry grew in the late 19th century, thanks in part to its sweet tooth and the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Myrtle Avenue elevated train. Wafts of baking aromas swept over the narrow section between Park and Flushing avenues, the site of a pair of biscuit compa-

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# Number one

Bay Ridge native Brian Nersten came in first in the annual Police Officer Chris Hoban Memorial Five-Mile Run. The race stepped off in front of Xaverian High School for the 23rd time on Sunday, memorializing a class of 1980 grad who became a cop and died during a drug bust gone wrong in 1988 and raises money for a scholarship fund.

# STOP... HAMILL TIME

## Slope newsman-novelist Pete Hamill wins big Brooklyn award

**By Natalie O'Neill**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

A Park Slope-born tabloid journalist-turned-acclaimed-novelist has made it his mission to capture the nostalgic spirit of old Brooklyn—and if a new award is any indication, he's doing a pretty good job at it.

Pete Hamill—whose new collection of short stories is set entirely in the borough—will receive the Brooklyn Book Festival's "BoBi" award recognizing outstanding Brooklyn-centric literature.

Hamill said "The Christmas Kid: And Other Brooklyn Stories" offers a glimpse at old-time Park Slope—prior to cell-phones and "before the word 'friend' became a verb."

The book pays homage to the then-blue-collar-and-im-

migrant-filled neighborhood, which shaped his upbringing, the scribe said.

"'Work' was the most important word in their vocabulary—and those values were part of my life," Hamill said.

One of his new stories tells the tale of a young boy who changes the lives of his neighbors; another follows a man seeking to avenge his brother's death. Many are set in classic neighborhood haunts such as Farrell's Bar and Grill and the shuttered Rattigan's, better known to current Park Slopers as the hip restaurant Talde.

Hamill—a former New York Post editor-in-chief whose recent books include "Tabloid City" and "Forever"—credited the Park Slope li-



Author Pete Hamill will receive the Brooklyn Book Festival's "BoBi" award, recognizing outstanding Brooklyn-centric literature, for his new book, "The Christmas Kid: And Other Brooklyn Stories."

brary on Sixth Avenue and Ninth Street for inspiring him to read and write.

The newsman made the transition to fiction after discovering journalism failed to answer some of life's big-picture questions.

"Certain kinds of stories demand imagination," he said.

On Sept. 22, Brooklyn Book Festival organizers will present Hamill with the award, which is chosen by a panel of dozens of authors and publishers.

The panel picks winners "based on a writer's total body of work" and how it "speaks to the spirit of Brooklyn," according to festival spokesman Mark Zustovich.

Previous winners include Paul Auster, Walter Mosley, and Edwidge Danticat.

# Parking spot smackdown!

**By Will Bredderman**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Towers of Bay Ridge residents are blasting a city proposal to remove eight parking spots from Fourth Avenue at 65th Street, claiming that they desperately need the spaces—sparking a war of words with infuriated Community Board 10 members who say high-rise apartment complex tenants have their own 300-car lot and shouldn't be parking on city streets.

The Department of Transportation wants to remove the eight parking spots so it can create a left-hand turn lane at the intersection, which the agency claims will eliminate a bottleneck on the heavily travelled thoroughfare.

But Towers of Bay Ridge tenants say they use those spots, which are right around the corner from the 65th Street building, when their parking lot is filled.

"They are quite valuable to the building," said Towers of Bay Ridge board president Thomas Clark, claiming that not every apartment has a parking space, and some tenants have as many as three cars—news that elicited angry responses from parking spot-strapped CB10 members attending last week's traffic and transportation committee meeting.

"If you're going to have three cars, move elsewhere," board member Joseph Sokoloski told Clark.

Other CB10 members downplayed Clark's claims, believing that Towers of Bay Ridge residents could fit more cars in its lot if it redrew the lines.

"If you took a good look at your parking deck, I bet you could squeeze 50 more spots out of there," CB10 member Bob Hudock said.

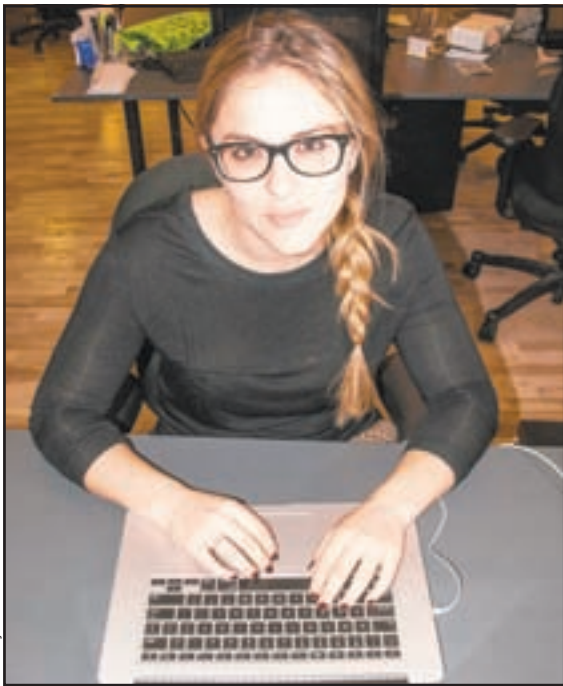
Yet Clark was quick to lash back, claiming that the lot is already crammed with cars.

"If you'd like me to give you a tour of our parking, I'd be happy to do it," Clark told Hudock.

Some Towers of Bay Ridge residents say the eight spots will be removed in vain because the city's plan to alleviate congestion on Fourth Avenue won't work.

"South-bound traffic has to be stopped to allow north-bound traffic to turn," Towers resident Bill Benedetto said, demanding that the city install a traffic light under the overpass to force cars coming into Bay Ridge to stop.

Department of Transportation officials said they would consider putting in a traffic light, but only in conjunction with their current plan. The proposal goes before CB10's full board on Sept. 24.



Founder of the online writing community "Writer's bloq," Naiya Moysidis is giving authors a new way to get their work the attention it deserves.

# Writerly ambitions

## Website provides authors with new outlet

**By Sol Park**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Rivals are often the toughest critics—but Brooklyn's unpublished and unappreciated scribes are putting their differences aside and joining forces in hopes of attracting the one thing that all writers crave: readers.

Author Nayia Moysidis is uniting aspiring wordsmiths with her website Writer's Bloq, which acts as a platform where novelists, poets, and storytellers can exchange prose and ideas among themselves—and better their chances of getting noticed.

"The first step is bringing people together to create opportunity to help great writers get discovered," said Moysidis, who claims most of the year-old site's team reside in the borough. "Industry professionals want to see writers

who are really passionate and confident in their own skin."

The site has already helped literary upstarts make a name for themselves in a bordering literary borough, Manhattan, with a reading at the legendary bookstore the Strand.

Now Moysidis wants to assist some of Brooklyn's best newby scribes win fans outside of the County of Kings with a series of "Bloq Parties" across the East Coast.

But doing so requires something most writers lack: money.

So she launched an online fundraising campaign, which expires on Sept. 24, to fund the effort.

Kickstarter.com could play a crucial role in the start-up's bottom line, but Moysidis hopes her site takes after another much-buzzed-about website, Vimeo.com.

That artistic online commu-

nity is known for a different medium—video—but Moysidis said she wanted Writer's Bloq to share its emphasis on high-quality content crafted by pros and dedicated amateurs, rather than the ad-packed free-for-all that is YouTube.com.

Such a community can provide better feedback—potentially turning the site into a high-tech revival of old literary phenomenons such as Parisian parlor culture.

"My vision for creating a Parisian parlor is both based on the difficulty of discovery, for both writers and publishers, and the manner through which many writers have seemed to move away from the model of collaborating and supporting one another," she said. "[It's] a model in which writers both compete and collaborate to reach their greatest artistic potential."

# McCarthy wins in GOP primary

**By Will Bredderman**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Republicans have picked their flag-bearer in the GOP's invasion on Coney Island.

Tom McCarthy trounced Lucretia Regina-Potter by a 70 percent

margin in a battle to decide who would take on incumbent Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny (D-Coney Island) in November.

The race for parts of Bay Ridge and Bath Beach, and all of Dyker Heights, Coney Island, and Brighton Beach, pitted a pe-

rennial candidate against a political newcomer: Regina-Potter, a Republican district leader, lost Assembly races in 2008 and 2010.

McCarthy, a banker at JP Morgan Chase and treasurer of the Kings County Republican Party, has never run for office—and

was wowed by his results.

"It's a great feeling to have so many people come out and support you," the new nominee said, crediting his win to his aggressive door-to-door and phone campaign.

Republicans predicted that McCarthy would duplicate suc-

cesses achieved by Rep. Michael Grimm (R-Bay Ridge), Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-Bay Ridge), Rep. Bob Turner (R-Sheepshead Bay), and State Sen. David Storoobin (R-Sheepshead Bay)—all of whom won unexpected victories against Democrats in recent years.

"We're going to continue our renaissance," said borough GOP chairman Craig Eaton.



nies. By 1914, the Drake Brothers baking company produced a stunning 15 tons of pound cake per day.

The Chocolate Factory at 275 Park Ave.—today a mid-rise doorman building with a laundry room and elevator—was the place where America's obsession with Tootsie Rolls took off.

But history isn't always sweet.

The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument at Fort Greene Park

on S. Oxford St. between Myrtle and DeKalb avenues soars in salute to the thousands of men and women who died of starvation and disease aboard British prison ships anchored at Wallabout Bay. President-elect William Howard Taft attended its 1908 dedication to personally honor the deceased whose remains were bur-



**TOWER AND CONQUER:** Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall, (above) features glass planes and large skylights. At left, Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument at Fort Greene Park.

ied unceremoniously along the shore before being relocated to a tomb on Jackson Street, now Hudson Avenue, near the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

That shipyard at Carlton and Flushing avenues is where the Lenape Indians once sailed their canoes, where anesthesia made its debut, and where chunks of the U.S.S. Arizona, sunk at Pearl Harbor, now rest.

The dockyard was decommissioned in 1966, and these days it is a thriving industrial park, employing thousands of people in green energy and film production. Its largest tenant, Steiner Studios, where "The Producers" was filmed, is also the largest national film and television complex outside Hollywood.

But it's success was a long time coming.

Fort Greene and Clinton Hill were not immune to the city's struggles in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The beautiful brownstone blocks fell into disrepair

and crime soared.

"During the 1960s and 1970s, Fort Greene was almost uniformly described in disparaging terms," said Stacey A. Sutton, an assistant professor of urban planning at Columbia University who has studied the community for nearly 10 years. "Recurring allusions to poverty, crime, unemployment, and racial segregation in Fort Greene perpetuated a 'politic of fear' and a general disregard for the area."

Long-time residents recall a neighborhood where that wasn't the kind of place where anyone wanted to be out past 6 pm.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the neighborhood's renaissance began.

Fort Greene and Clinton Hill became a hub for African American artists and families—with institutions such as the Paul Robeson Theater and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts emerging as community beacons.

Fort Greene lover Spike Lee even established his film company 40 Acres & A Mule in the neighborhood.

The rise of hip hop—and the stardom of Clinton Hill emcee Christopher Wallace, better known as the Notorious B.I.G., gave the neighborhoods new cultural cachet.

Fort Greene and Clinton Hill were suddenly cool, emerging as prime food, fashion, shopping, and music destinations. But with that came gentrification—evidenced not only by twee businesses and costly real estate, but also Census data indicating that the neighborhoods witnessed the sixth-biggest growth in white residents nationwide.

"By the end of the 1990s, Fort Greene became hotly contested terrain," says Sutton.

Change in the neighborhoods has been rampant, but the communities still retain the diversity that makes them so special.

# FEELING GREENE

## Five things you need to know about this nabe's history

**INDIE-FILM ICON:** "Do the Right Thing" director Spike Lee founded his 40 Acres & A Mule film company in Fort Greene.



**TINSELTOWN DWELLER:** Academy Award-winning Actress Susan Sarandon has a home in Clinton Hill.

**GLITTERING DENIZEN:** Screen siren Rosie Perez is among the Hollywood luminaries who calls the area home.



**CULTURE-SOAKED CRIB:** Rapper and actor Mos Def—aka Yasiin Bey—set up home in the area.

**FORT FOUNDER:** Fort Greene is named for Revolutionary War hero General Nathaneal Greene, considered George Washington's most gifted and dependable officer.



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# Beaten unconscious on Johnson Avenue

90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick

Two thugs knocked a man out and stole his wallet on Johnson Avenue on Sept. 16.

The 30-year-old victim told police he was on his way home from work near Bushwick Avenue at 8 pm when two shady characters started walking next to him. About a minute later, one of the thugs hit him over the head at least once. The victim lost consciousness and when he came to, his wallet was missing and he was bleeding from the head and face.

The bleeding man called his roommates, who called a car to take him to Beth Israel Hospital. His wallet contained his driver's license, credit cards, debit card, and insurance card.

Some brass

A thief stole more than \$300 in hardware from utility closet in a Scholes Street apartment building on Sept. 14.

A caretaker at the building between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street told police he went to work at 8 am to find the door to a utility room had been pried open and the lock that had been there had been replaced by a padlock.

When he got the padlock off the door, he found that five brass caps, some valves,

chains, and brass pipes were missing.

Ambushed

A thug knocked a man to the ground and swiped his wallet on S. Ninth Street on Sept. 14.

The victim told police he had just left a grocery store and was between Driggs Avenue and Roebling Street at 8:15 pm when someone kicked his legs out from under him and he fell to the ground with his bags. He told police that his wallet fell out of his hands as he fell.

When the victim stood up and picked up his property, he saw a man running off down the street. His wallet, which contained \$20, his school ID, a debit card, and a Metro-Card, were gone.

Art and Apples

A crook took two Apple laptops from a Hope Street art gallery on Sept. 13.

The victim told police she finished setting up her art gallery between Roebling and Havemeyer streets with friends and unknown workers at 10 pm and left. When she returned the next day, her laptops, worth a total of \$3,700, were missing.

She remembered that when she was locking up the gallery the previous night, one of the workers asked to go back inside to retrieve his bag, she told cops.

Sawed off

A burglar sawed a lock in half and stole a racing bike

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

worth \$1,200 from a Humboldt Street apartment on Sept. 13.

The victim told police he left his bike chained to a staircase railing of the building between Montrose Avenue and Meserole Street and found it missing at 1 am.

Police say surveillance video from the building shows a burglar breaking into the hallway of the building, trying to break into the coin receptacles in the laundry room, and then removing the bike from the railing.

Invaded

A knife-wielding thug punched a tenant as he invaded her Seigel Street apartment looking for money in a terrifying robbery on Sept. 10.

The victim told police she was answering the door of her apartment between Bogart and White streets at 8:30 pm when the invader shoved his way into her apartment, threatened her with a knife and yelled, “Don’t make me cut you.”

He ransacked every room looking for valuables, and told the woman to lay on the bed and not move. She said he punched her several times in the face and demanded, “Where is the money?”

He made off with a Macbook, hemp necklace, iPad, and an expensive Diane Van Furstenburg bag. Altogether, the items totaled more than \$2,900 police said.

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Face wound

Cops arrested a 22-year-old man who they say beat up another man on Third Street on Sept. 15.

The victim told cops he was near Eighth Street at 1:46 am when a man grabbed his cellphone, then whacked him in the face, leaving him with a bloody gash.

Sea ya!

A crook snatched some jewelry and scuba gear from a car parked on Flatbush Avenue on Sept. 10.

The 54-year-old victim told police she left her gray Ford near Prospect Park Zoo at 11 am, then came back the next day and discovered her diamond earrings, a laptop, and camera gone. The heartless bandit even swiped undersea equipment.

Sad shopper

A jerk jacked some cash and electronics from a car on Warren Street on Sept. 11.

The 24-year-old victim told cops she parked her gray 2012 Hyundai near Fourth Avenue at 3 pm then went shopping at Beacon’s Closet. She came back three hours later and noticed the window busted—and her iPad, passport, and \$200 missing.

Pretty Lowe

A perp stole some knives from a car on Second Avenue on Sept. 11.

The 39-year-old victim told cops he parked his white Chevy van in a Lowe’s parking lot near 10th Street, went shopping for 10 minutes, then drove to work in Manhattan.

That’s when he discovered his sheetrock knives, a laptop, and cordless saw gone.

Toyota taken

A perp stole a car parked on Fourth Avenue sometime between Sept. 9 and 15.

The 49-year-old victim

told cops she parked her red 2007 Toyota near Fifth Avenue at 5 pm, then came back six days later and found her trusty ride missing — with no sign of broken glass.

Gucci gone

Cops arrested a 29-year-old woman who they say swiped a wallet from a shopper on 12th Street on Sept. 13.

The 32-year-old victim told cops he set his Gucci wallet on a credit card swiper at Pathmark near Hamilton Place at 8 pm, then came back 10 minutes later and discovered it gone.

— Natalie O’Neill

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

Bite fight

A crook stole some merchandise from a CVS on Myrtle Avenue on Sept. 14, and bit a security guard as she was trying to escape.

Representatives from the store near Ashland Place told cops that the crook entered the store at 2:45 pm and tried to leave without paying for \$14 worth of merchandise. After security stopped the woman, she bit both of his hands.

Terrible trio

A fearsome threesome robbed a man in the Washington Avenue G station on Sept. 11.

The 32-year-old victim told cops he was in the station on the Williamsburg-bound platform at 12:10 pm when the three crooks walked up to him.

One of them punched him and another took his iPhone, which cops said they tracked and recovered from a building on Marcy Avenue.

iPhoned

Police say a knife-wielding thug stole a cellphone from a woman at the Clinton–Washington subway station on Sept. 13.

The 18-year-old victim told cops she was at the station at 1:47 pm when a crook with a knife stole her iPhone with the help of two friends. Cops said they arrested two teenaged suspects.

Train gun

A gun-toting robber stole a smartphone from a man on the Q train near the Atlantic Avenue–Barclays Center subway station.

The 19-year-old victim told cops he was on the train near Hanson Place at 4:50 am when two men approached.

One said, “Give me your phone,” and displayed a gun.

After he handed over his phone, they asked for money, and when he said he didn’t have any, they got off the train at Atlantic Avenue.

Cop bopped

An angry driver hit a traffic agent on Hanson Place on Sept. 11.

The 30-year-old victim told cops she was directing traffic near S. Elliot Place at 2:30 pm when the angry driver hit her head and fled in his vehicle.

Leg hit

A gunman shot a man in the leg on N. Oxford Walk on Sept. 16.

The 31-year-old victim said he was near Park Avenue at 9 pm when a man opened fire. While he was running away, the victim said he was shot in the leg.

home to see that somebody had forced his door open and moved his kitchen stove into the middle of the room — and taken the cache of treasures hidden behind the appliance.

The man reported that the thief stole 50 \$100 bills, \$12,800 in gold necklaces, \$3,000 in gold bracelets, \$1,600 in rings, and his \$400 security camera.

Off the rim

A bandit made off with the tires and rims from a car parked on 84th Street overnight on Sept. 13, cops say.

The victim’s wife reported to police that her husband left the vehicle between 11th and 12th avenues at 6 pm, and when she went out at 3 pm on the next day, the car’s treads and shiny wheel covers were gone.

Wallet wrangled

A pick-pocket struck in the elevator of the Atlantic Terminal Mall and made off with a woman’s wallet on Sept. 9.

The 61-year-old victim said she got in the building’s elevator at 6 pm and noticed her wallet was missing when she got out.

Bike back

A crook stole a bicycle on Myrtle Avenue on Sept. 10 — then gave it back.

The 32-year-old victim told cops a crook cut the chain on his fancy Cannondale bicycle he left between Grand Avenue and Ryerson Street at 5 pm, but then dropped it on the floor after the victim confronted the crook.

Card collector

Police arrested a man who they say plucked a woman’s MetroCard out of her hands in the Clinton–Washington subway station on Sept. 15.

The 19-year-old victim said she was about to go through the turnstile at 12:10 pm when the jerk took the card from her hand and fled.

Cops arrested a 51-year-old suspect outside of the station.

Pocketed book

A jerk stole a woman’s purse on Adelphi Street on Sept. 16.

The 35-year-old woman told cops she was inside of a playground between Myrtle and Park avenues 9:30 am when a crook stole her purse from where she had left it.

Auto-lift

A crook stole a car parked on S. Oxford Street on Sept. 14.

The 74-year-old victim told cops he left his 2008 Chevy between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue at 6 am, returning at 11:45 am only to find it missing.

House heist

A thief hit a house on Grand Avenue on Sept. 12, stealing more than \$6,000 in electronics.

The 25-year-old victim told cops he left his place between Putnam and Gates avenues at 11 am, returning at 5 pm to find his gadgets gone.

— Eli Rosenberg

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Goldmine

A burglar hit the jackpot when he took \$22,8000 in cash, jewelry, and electronics from a 14th Avenue apartment on Sept. 12, police say.

The victim said he left his home between 64th and 65th streets at 10:55 am, and came

ment between 86th and 87th streets at 3:15 pm, and opened the door to see an unfamiliar face. But he didn’t see him long — the goon punched him repeatedly in the face, then took \$800 in cash and a cellphone from the victim’s pockets and fled.

Caning

A pair of heartless punks beat a Bensonhurst woman with a cane and stole her iPhone on New Utrecht Avenue on Sept. 14, police say.

The woman said he was near 72nd Street at 3:50 pm when one of the perps came up and started hitting her with the walking stick. The attacker then held her back as his partner took her mobile device.

Screwed over

Four goons hijacked a Bensonhurst driver’s car on Kings Highway using a screwdriver on Sept. 15, police report.

The victim said he was stopped at a light near W. Ninth Street at 4:30 am when the gang jumped inside. The thug in the front seat pressed the screwdriver into the driver’s stomach and ordered him to drive to Coney Island Avenue and Avenue J.

There was a struggle at the corner of W. Fourth Street and Kings Highway as the driver grabbed the screwdriver, and the villain riding shotgun punched the driver repeatedly in the face and bit the man’s hand. The group jumped out and fled at the corner of W. Fourth Street and Quentin Road, grabbing the man’s iPhone as they left. Police have recovered the handtool.

No party of five

Five thugs cut up a Bensonhurst man outside of his home on Bay 20th Street on Sept. 17, according to cops.

The man said he heard a noise outside his house between Cropsy Avenue and Shore Parkway at 10:50 pm and went outside to investigate. The gang of thugs approached him and took a knife from the trunk of their car and sliced open his right arm.

— Will Bredderman

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94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside

Shelter scuffle

Police arrested a man who they say choked another man at a Skillman Avenue homeless shelter on Sept. 11.

The victim told police that he was settling in at the shelter between Kingsland and Debevoise avenues at 6pm when another resident put his hands around the victim’s neck and choked him, causing him to lose consciousness.

When the man woke up, he had scratches on his neck.

Throwing knives

A teenager got into an argument with her older sister in their Morgan Avenue apartment on Sept. 12 — and threw a knife at her, said police.

The victim told police that she got into an altercation with her 15-year-old sister in their apartment between Maspeth Avenue and Frost Street at 8:30 am over a pair of jeans.

The teenager then threw a knife at the victim, cutting her right elbow, she said. She also tried to throw a lock at her.

The younger sister was arrested and charged with assault.

Hatched a plan

A thief stole a MacBook and cameras from a N. Seventh Street apartment on Sept. 10.

The victim told police he returned to his apartment between Havemeyer Street and Meeker Avenue at 5:45pm to find that someone had entered through either an unlocked window next to a fire escape or the roof hatch in

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Face wound

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Sea ya!

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Pretty Lowe

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That’s when he discovered his sheetrock knives, a laptop, and cordless saw gone.

Toyota taken

A perp stole a car parked on Fourth Avenue sometime between Sept. 9 and 15.

The 49-year-old victim

62ND PRECINCT

Bensonhurst–Bath Beach

Ding-dong, duck

A thug mugged a man after ringing his front doorbell on Bay Parkway on Sept. 12, cops report.

The victim said he answered the chime at his apart-

NOTICE OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARINGS FROM OCTOBER 2, 2012 TO OCTOBER 11, 2012

The NYC Districting Commission will hold five public hearings from October 2, 2012 to October 11, 2012. These hearings are open to the public. Individuals wishing to pre-register for speaking time or to submit written testimony in advance may do so by signing up online at <http://www.nyc.gov/districting>. Individuals wishing to speak at any hearing will be provided up to three minutes of speaking time.

BRONX Tuesday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5:30PM – 9:00PM	Bronx Community College 2155 University Avenue Bronx, NY 10453
MANHATTAN Thursday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – 9:00PM	Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 515 Malcolm X Boulevard New York, NY 10037
STATEN ISLAND Tuesday, October 9 <sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – 9:00PM	New Dorp High School 465 New Dorp Lane Staten Island, NY 10306
QUEENS Wednesday, October 10 <sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – 9:00PM	LaGuardia Community College Little Theater 31-10 Thomson Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101
BROOKLYN Thursday, October 11 <sup>th</sup> 5:30PM – 9:00PM	Medgar Evers College Founders' Auditorium 1650 Bedford Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11225

Prior to the hearings, you may submit written comments to the NYC Districting Commission by mail to: NYC Districting Commission, Attn: Jonathan Etricks, 253 Broadway, 7th FL, NY, NY 10007, or by email to: [hearings@districting.nyc.gov](mailto:hearings@districting.nyc.gov) on or before 5:00 P.M. on the date of the hearings. Please indicate in your correspondence the date of the hearing for which you are submitting your comments.

**NOTE:** The hearing locations are accessible to those with physical disabilities. Individuals requesting an interpreter for sign language or any other language at any hearing should contact the NYC Districting Commission at [hearings@districting.nyc.gov](mailto:hearings@districting.nyc.gov) or by calling 212-442-0256 five days in advance of the hearing, and reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate such requests.

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(718) 260-2500      *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings*      September 21–27, 2012

# Supporting troupe

*Wild show touts performance patriotism in USO riff*

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

Gone are the good old days of Bob Hope, and here in his stead is Donny Vomit.

A group of tawdry Brooklyn burlesque performers are reinventing the form of entertainment made famous by classic United Service Organizations shows, giving a sideshow-style makeover to the wholesome acts that defined the World War II era.

But instead of wowing troops with performances by entertainment greats such as Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra, these gigs feature human blockheads like Vomit, as well as off-beat comedy and burlesque dancing.

“The USO shows tend to be pretty PG-13 and that’s not me, so it’s a pretty loose interpretation and loose theme,” said organizer Ben Doray — known by his stage name Scary Ben — who wears an Army doughboy-style uniform and cap to emcee.

“There is a bit of a military and patriotic theme, but it’s not overwhelming.”

There won’t be any uniformed soldiers in the crowd and the performers at the show — dubbed “US Oh No” — aren’t heading to any war zone, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t putting themselves in harm’s way.

“My acts mostly involve the chances of me being hurt or seriously maimed,” said Vomit, a “Sideshow by the Seashore” icon who is planning to hammer things up his nose and juggle chainsaws.

Doray has been a fixture on the Coney Island sideshow scene for years and “US Oh No,” which is now a monthly staple at the Morgan, and showcases some of the city’s weirdest, most flamboyant — and least categorizable talents — such as operatic strippers and bunny suit-wearing comedians.



**Comrade in arms:** (Left to right) US Oh No dancer Bombazeen Bean, Sword expert Donny Vomit, and host Scary Ben, are taking the good old fashioned United Service Organization shows of World War II for a Bushwick spin.

Doray even encourages audiences to take part in the wide variety of weird routines. As long as the act has some penchant for performing on stage, the show’s organizers seem happy to let it wave its

freaky flag.

“Burlesque is great, but as it’s currently defined, it’s kind of limiting,” said Doray.

“There are so many talented people

in this city who do more than take their clothes off. I want to have comedians, strippers, magicians, fire-breathers; any manner of stage-based performance that is amusing to me.”

# Union jacked

*Artist tweaks State of the Unions to reveal rhetoric*

By Hannah Palmer Egan  
for The Brooklyn Paper

If this election season’s got you feeling like American political discourse is increasingly near-sighted — there’s an eye doctor in DUMBO.

He isn’t really medically trained, but artist R. Luke DuBois is testing people’s political vision with the ubiquitous, 66-letter Snellen eye chart, found in optometrists’ offices worldwide. Only, instead of random letters, the chart presents the most commonly used buzzwords from each of the previous presidents’ State of the Union ad-

**ART**

“Hindsight is Always 20/20” at the Brooklyn Bridge Park (On the waterfront near Jane’s Carousel, enter on Old Dock and Water streets, hindsightisalways2020.net). Sept. 28–30. Free.

dress to show the evolution of political language in America.

“It’s interesting how the rhetoric has changed,” said DuBois, who came up with “Hindsight is Always 20/20” after watching pundits scream at each other on CNN one night.

“We’ve become this buzzword and



**Reading Washington:** Artist Luke DuBois’s lightboxes show the most commonly used words from presidential speeches through history — such as George Washington’s inauguration speech.

bingo society — the words [presidents use now] aren’t these big words like ‘alliance and democracy’ — they’re like ‘Us and Them.’”

In a clever literal flourish, DuBois built the charts to scale, so from 20 feet back visitors can get test their vision of history. Those who get them

all are bona fide 20/20.

The Democratic National Committee commissioned the project in 2008, when “vision,” was a hot topic during the Obama-McCain run. The piece debuted at the Democratic National convention in Denver in August, 2008, and a version of it has toured

the country ever since.

Still, the artist maintains the installation is non-partisan, and that he’s enjoyed seeing the wide range of people who have tested their vision with it.

In Denver, of seventh-graders toured the convention and viewed the piece, and then guessed at words that may appear on an Obama or McCain chart. In Wichita, KS, a group of older, union-aircraft workers filed through another showing.

“It was trippy to go thorough [the charts] with older people who had listened to Harry Truman on the radio,” the artist said. “Many words have different significance now than they did when spoken by presidents before Congress and the nation.”

The artist found that the State of the Union — once a Congressionally-mandated homework assignment, involving pie-charts and graphs — has become more of an advertising pitch for an administration.

Dubois claims the work isn’t biased, but savvy politicians who have good eyesight might be able to use it to read between the lines of current Democrats-Republican discourse.

## ART

# Gallery guts

Some grown-ups will find any excuse to get dressed up in a fun costume — they’ll even go to an art gallery.

A Gowanus art space already known as “the death metal band of Brooklyn art show-rooms” is hosting a costume party that’s the perfect place for both adult art lovers and Halloween’s eve enthusiasts to come together for the spookiest time of the year.

“A lot of the artists we work with are normally into that kind of thing,” said MF Gallery’s Martina Secondo Russo of the occult and horror-themed art pieces that will be on display.

Russo claims the night of grotesque art is great for testing costumes before the big night.

“If you can’t decide what costume to wear, you can wear one to this party and one on Halloween, or text your makeup out, or whatever,” said Russo, an artist who started the MF Gallery with her husband Frank.

The 10th Annual Halloween Art Show at MF Gallery [213 Bond St. betw. Baltic and Butler streets, (917) 446–8681] Oct. 13, 7 pm. Free.

— Eli Rosenberg

## CABARET

# Gloomspan

A Tony Award-winning Broadway performer’s show is called “End of the World as We Know It Cabaret,” but the singer says not to worry — it only feels like the end is neigh.

“It’s taking it from the literal and turning it into a metaphor. Really there is no end,” said Christine Ebersole, who is kicking off the fall season of Onstage at Kingsborough.

“The only thing we can hope for is our old limiting ways of viewing the world will end.”

Ebersole said she’ll tell stories throughout her performance, all of them relating back to the theme of the end of the world. But they won’t be tales of asteroids or atom bombs, but of personal events, or “what seemed like the end of the world at the time,” as the singer and actress put it.

The show will also feature some of the most revelatory numbers from the Great American Songbook, including “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” “Get Behind Me Satan,” and “I’ll Fly Away.”

Christine Ebersole at Onstage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. betw. Perry and Decatur avenues in Manhattan Beach. (914) 764–3133, www.kbcc.cuny.edu/osk]. Oct. 13, 8 pm. \$30.

— Will Bredderman

## MUSIC

# Chicha time!

Partying on a Monday night is as inconceivable as shimmying to Wagner — but a six-piece “chicha” band is doing both in Park Slope.

Chicha Libre is providing a groovy antidote to early week banalities in with a Peruvian-influenced dance party that mixes Latin rhythms, surf music, and even goes so far as to play a danceable “Flight of the Valkyries.”

“I love hybrid, impure music. In any genre,” said Olivier Conan, vocalist and cuatro player. “Anything that is tinkered with pleases me.”

The Monday-night band is inspired by the chicha style of music, which flourished in the slums of Lima during the 1960s. It’s known for turning classic songs, like “Fur Elise,” on its ear.

Conan first discovered it for himself on a trip to Peru, and its versatility appealed to his sensibilities.

“The only [music] that sticks to one template is music that belongs to a folkloric school, a museum — or a totalitarian state,” said Conan.

The band’s love for fresh tunes is also a result of Conan’s background, having come from the Barbes neighborhood in Paris — where different musical forms mashed into each other and created new sounds.

Chicha Libre at Cafe Barbes [376 Ninth St. betw. Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope (347) 422–0248]. Mon. at 9:30 pm \$10 suggested.

— Eric Dryden

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY  
September 22

Funny pictures

Even more than novelists, graphic novelists are holed up at their slanted desks inking intricately rendered stories for long periods of time — so it makes sense Gabrielle Bell’s “Voyeurs” is a funny and often beautiful reflection on a life of social detachment. See the art come alive, as Bell and others including Julia Wertz and Lauren Weinstein read from their work presented by projectors.

8 pm at Bergen Street Comics [470 Bergen St. betw. Flatbush and Fifth Avenues, (718) 230–5600]. Free.

SUNDAY  
September 23

Dirty pictures

From cave drawings to classroom sketches, the human impulse to sketch obscenities is well documented. Join a discussion with Gilbert Hernandez, who penned the voluptuous novel “Love and Rockets.” Joining the artist is artists Leela Corman, Molly Crabbapple, and Bob Finerman. Warning: explicit drawings.

3 pm at St. Francis Auditorium [180 Remsen St. betw. Court and Clinton streets, (718) 489–5200]. Free.

MONDAY  
September 24

More than LOLcats

There’s a lot of really bad movies being made everyday thanks to the wonders of cheap digital cameras and free video hosting sites. The Daily-motion has collected the best creative videos, including music videos and short films, in their second Nitehawk Cinema screening this year. Experience the internet — with other people.

7 pm at the Nighthawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave., between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue, (718) 384–3980, www.nitehawkcinema.com]. Free.

WEDNESDAY  
September 26

Extreme cello

New York-based cellist Mariel Roberts is a cat-gut-burning contemporary music daredevil, taking the traditional string instrument into territory only written about — that is, by composers like Andy Akiho, whose percussive compositions are eloquent ballets set in barren wastelands. See Roberts perform new works for solo cello by Akiho, and Tristan Perich, and Daniel Wohl.

8 pm at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral [113 Remsen St. betw. Clinton and Henry streets, (718) 624–7228]. \$15.

FRIDAY  
September 28

Art weekend

Make sure to check out the Dumbo Arts Festival, a weekend of indoor and outdoor art installations featuring large scale projections, digital art, and performance pieces. Some of the highlights include a repurposed motion capturing device for video games that puts your flying visage on the face of a huge building, and “Flex” dancers hailing from East New York who redefine urban dance.

6 pm in DUMBO [Between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges, on the waterfront, dumboartsfestival.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, SEPT. 21

ART, SOLO EXHIBITION: Check out “New Girl,” Nana Iida’s art exhibit which is about outward feminine beauty, versus the inner side of beauty. 12–6pm. Ouchi gallery [170 Tillary St. Suite 507, (347) 987–4606], www.ouchigallery.com.

FILM, WILLIAMSBURG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: This four day event includes feature films, documentaries, shorts, animated films, live music, panel discussions and a family fare day. 5:00 pm. Various, www.willifest.com/2012.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN-BASED COMPOSER: Rebecca Brandt is celebrating the release of her debut album “Numbers & Shapes” with a show featuring a 14-piece ensemble. \$10 presale, \$15 door, 7 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222–8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

THEATER, EUGENE O’NEILL ON A HUDSON RIVER BARGE: Eugene O’Neill’s Pulitzer-Prize winning Anna Christie, a timeless story of longing and redemption that unfolds on O’Neill’s fictional “Simeon Winthrop” coal barge, will perform aboard the century-old Lehigh Valley Barge #79, docked in historic Red Hook along Brooklyn’s Hudson River. \$18. 7:30pm. Waterfront Museum Barge [290 Conover St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 624–4719], www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

READING, BROOKLYN INDIE PARTY!: Part of the Brooklyn Book Festival, Greenlight Bookstore will host a night of independent book and magazine publishers, complete with refreshments. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

DANCE: Creative Outlet merges rigorous classical and modern technique with African-American soul and spirit. Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. Flatbush Reformed Church [890 Flatbush Avenue, Flatbush, Brooklyn 11226], www.BEATBrooklyn.com.

THEATER, NAIL SHOP DRAMA: Tony-nominated actor and playwright Colman Domingo will direct. Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622–3300 or email: rfrank@bqcm.org], www.bqcm.org.

SAT, SEPT. 22

TOUR, SCAVENGER HUNT: For the best views of Manhattan and the harbor, you have to go to Brooklyn Heights. You’ll also see movie locations, famous writers’ homes, baseball landmarks, Underground Railroad stops, a Revolutionary battleground—all in the city’s most beautiful neighborhood. \$19.50. 4:30 pm. (Court and Montague streets in Brooklyn Heights), www.watsonadventures.com.

SUN, SEPT. 23

DANCE, BROOKLYN SALSA PARTY: Join this community dance event started by local Brooklyn dancers in order to have a quality and laid-back salsa event in the neighborhood. Requests are welcome. \$5-10. 6–11 PM. 739 Franklin Lounge [739 Franklin Ave. in Crown Heights, (516) 850–9178], www.BrooklynSalsaParty.com.

MON, SEPT. 24

THEATER, OPERA-TION BROOKLYN: Opera about the subway, and even opera about “Stop-and-Frisk.” Tickets start a \$20. 7:30 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488–9233], www.irondale.org.

TUE, SEPT. 25

MUSIC, WOODY GUTHRIE CENTENNIAL: Highlights include the “The Dylan/Guthrie Connection” keynote by distinguished Princeton University historian Sean Wilentz and interviews with renowned folk artists Arlo Guthrie, Judy Collins, and Billy Bragg. 10 am–5 pm. Brooklyn College Student Center [East 27 St. and Campus Road, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenter.com/boxoffice/index\_boxoff.html.

WED, SEPT. 26

DANCE, CLASSICAL AND MODERN DANCE: As part of the BEAT Festival (Brooklyn Emerging Artists in Theater), Jamel Gaines’ Creative Outlet Dance Theatre performs “Urban Roots.” Tickets start a \$20. 3 pm. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488–9233], www.irondale.org.

THU, SEPT. 27

MUSIC, MULTIMEDIA SHOW: AFP returns to The Paper Box in East Williamsburg for a new monthly multimedia experience showcasing some of the finest emerging talent NYC has to offer. \$8. 8 pm. The Paper Box [17 Meadow St. (718) 383–3815], www.paperboxnyc.com.

FRI, SEPT. 28

TAJ SALE: New and used items. (Rain dates, 9/23 and 9/30.) Free. 9 am–5pm. Cadman Towers Building [101 Clark St. between Henry Street and Cadman Plaza West in Brooklyn Heights].

EDUCATION LECTURE: TEDxYouth is presenting an all day forum with inspiring speakers and performers.

SAT, SEPT. 29

FREE. 9 am–4 pm. Roulette (509 Atlantic Ave. in Downtown), www.tedxyouthbfs.com.

BREKULEN COUNTY FAIR: Go celebrate Brooklyn’s rich farming history with a day of bluegrass music, crafts for all ages, puppet show, art, quilting workshops, apple cider pressing, and more. Come celebrate Brooklyn’s rich farming history with a day of music, crafts, puppets, art, quilting workshops, apple cider pressing, and more. Learn about heritage seeds, composting, solar energy and heirloom vegetables at New York City’s oldest. 1–6 pm. Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum [5816 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 629–5400], www.wyckoffassociation.org.

LAST NIGHT OF SUMMER-LOVIN’ PARTY: It’s the last night of summer and we want to party! At this Babeland Quickie, we’ll share our favorite sex tips from summer ‘12 and recommend a few techniques to keep things hot through the cooler seasons. Enjoy Babeland Bubbly and arrive early; the first fifteen people will receive free products. Free. 7 pm. Babeland [462 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope], summerlovinbabeland.eventbrite.com.

SUN, SEPT. 30

DANCE, BROOKLYN BLUEGRASS BASH: Enjoy some old-time down-home mountain music — plus barbecue from Urban Rustic — at the Brooklyn Bluegrass Bash! \$95. 2 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseeny.com.

MUSIC, SILENT FILM AND LIVE MUSIC: The Red Hook Ramblers, New York’s premier dixieland band, will pair their red hot jazz with a trio of silent comedies at Brooklyn’s Jalopy Theatre. \$10. 7 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395–3214], www.jalopy.biz.

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT: Come to the carnival and meet with seniors and join the program. There will be rides, ponies, entertainment, cotton candy and popcorn. Free. 11 am–3 pm. Cobble Hill Health Center [Congress St. between Hicks and Henry streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855–6789].

TALK ON JUSTICE: Ellis, the Charley Horwitz Memorial Platform speaker, gives hope and provides a lifeline to young people in NuLeadership youth programs and to incarcerated people through “On the Count,” his weekly radio program on Pacifica WBAI produced with former prisoners. \$0. 11 am–5 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 768–2972], www.bscec.org.

FAMOUS ACCORDION ORCHESTRA: The Famous Accordion Orchestra led by Bob Goldberg, bridges the traditional and the post-modern. \$10 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965–9177], www.barbes-brooklyn.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 8

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# A wonderful woman

Brooklyn artist reboots the Amazon princess

By Chuck O'Donnell  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Wonder Woman was born on Paradise Island, but her life as a comic book heroine has been hell.

Her unlikely origin story began with polygraph pioneer William Moulton Marston, a feminist theorist and psychologist with an apparent bondage fetish, who invented the Amazon warrior princess with the blue eyes and ample — ahem — ringlets of hair. And for eight decades since her creation, she has been wrestled into submission and tied up by one-too-many alterations, leaving her with a dearth of fans, despite the way she turns fan-boys' heads when she snaps a villain's neck.

But Prospect Heights artist Cliff Chiang, has come to her rescue with a fresh reboot.

In this past Wednesday's release of the "0" issue, Diana of Themyscira finally gets an origin story that is cogent and concise, has a bold 1960s Marvel art style, and presents a clear

theme: when a coming-of-age hero is taken under the wing of Ares, she must decide if death is necessary for justice.

"It's not a standard origin story where we show how she left Paradise Island, but it is about her character and a specific moment of how she grows into a hero," Chiang said.

"The '0' issue deals with Wonder Woman's childhood. We hint at it not being as rosy as one might think. She's a princess in a culture that prizes skill and achievement, so she's always had to prove herself worthy of the title."

Chiang and writer Brian Azzarello's work is a part of DC's attempt to relaunch its entire line of comics, branding them "The New 52" and starting each character with a clean slate. This has given the duo the opportunity to craft a new narrative for the femme fighter, showing her slug it out with Apollo, wrestle with Poseidon's tentacled minions, and nearly marry Hades.

"Our job for 'The New 52' was explicitly to reinterpret the classic Wonder Woman story in a way that would be accessible for new readers and

exciting for long-time fans," Chiang said. "We've made some people angry, but we've also gained a different audience that had never picked up a Wonder Woman comic before, and I think that speaks to the strength of what we're doing."

And in reintroducing the woman warrior to new audiences, Chiang didn't feel as though he was tasked with redeeming the character — just doing what it took to get her right.

"We've been given a fair amount of artistic license in interpreting the designs, and for me, it was about simplifying and streamlining, and making her feel distinct and believable as an Amazon warrior. Her height and build, her big Mediterranean hair, the cut of her shorts, those were all things I had to consider carefully. She couldn't look like a runway model, or a swimsuit model. You have to believe this woman can take down a monster," he said.

## COMICS

"Wonder Woman" issue No. 0 is will be available Sept. 19, and can be found at Bergen Street Comics [470 Bergen St. between Flatbush and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 230-5600]; Desert Island [540 Metropolitan Ave. near Union Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-5087]; Galaxy Comics [429 Fifth Ave. between Eighth and Ninth streets in Park Slope, (718) 499-3222, and 6823 Fifth Ave. near 68th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-1236]; St. Mark's Comics [148 Montague St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 935-0911].

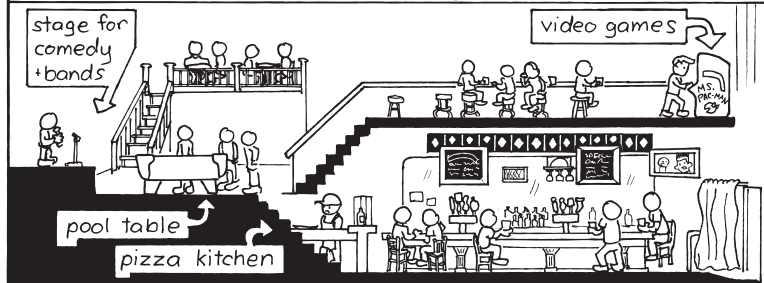
"Love it or hate it, people are talking about Wonder Woman, and that hasn't happened for a while."

## BAR SCRAWL

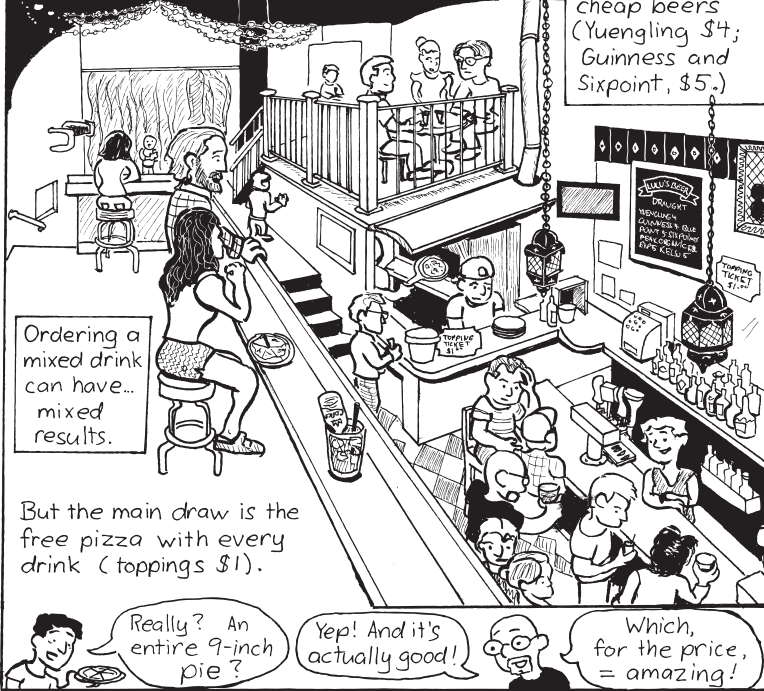


By Bill Roudy

When I'm in Greenpoint, the evening often ends at Lulu's.



The unpretentious, split-level bar offers a decent selection of



Lulu's [113 Franklin St., at Greenpoint Avenue, in Greenpoint (718) 383-6000, [www.lulusbrooklyn.com](http://www.lulusbrooklyn.com)]. Open Mon-Fri, 3 pm-4 am; Sat, Sun, 2 pm-4 am. Free pizza with drink purchase daily, 6:30 pm-3:30 am.

# High heels on the highway

All-woman Judas Priest cover band to play for bikers

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

A different kind of siren is going to stop motorcyclists in Williamsburg on Saturday.

The all-female Judas Priest cover band Judas Priestess is the main attraction at a biker block party on Union Avenue on Sept. 22 — and that's no surprise considering the leather-clad metal gals are louder than even the loudest chopper.

"We had to make them the headliner, because all the guys in the other bands said no one can go on after them," said Elisa Seeger, who along with her husband organizes the annual Indian Larry Grease Monkey block party — a Williamsburg street festival for motorcycle enthusiasts.

Judas Priestess singer MilitiA



**Better in leather:** MilitiA (center) and her fellow Judas Priestess members are bringing all the bikers out to Indian Larry's Grease Monkey Block Party.

searched far and wide for women who needed an outlet for their Priest love — and the hunt wasn't easy. "It was hard to find other girls who

have a h----- to play Judas Priest. I don't get it," she said. "Why wouldn't you want to play the fastest, loudest music you can find?"



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# Can you dig it, again

*New Warriors film survives to retell the absurd tale*

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

A second Warriors movie has made the arduous journey to Coney Island. A motley crew of Coney Island filmmakers, in an unholy union with a federation of outlaw biker gangs, have created a short film called “Lost in Coney Island” that’s partly parody and partly social commentary — but wholly in the spirit of the 1979 cult classic “The Warriors.”

“We try to [re]make ‘The Warriors,’ but everything goes wrong, it goes chaotic, haywire,” said actor and director Eric Rivas. “The real outlaw biker world gets wind of it and wants to stomp out the production.”

And when Rivas says “the real outlaw biker world,” it ain’t no front.

Members of the Forbidden Ones, Metal Militia, God’s Only Demons, Filthy Mad Dogs, Dukes, and They’re F----- Crazy motorcycle clubs contributed their time — and Harleys — to lend the film an additional air of authenticity beyond its Coney Island locale.

“What we set out to make was a satire of the way I’ve been making films, an attempt to make ‘The Warriors’ as if it were a dream project of mine,” said Rivas.

The film follows Rivas and crew as they create a modern remake of the ’79 hometown classic, which tells the tale of scrappy Coney Island gang members struggling to return to their beach-side turf as the city’s criminal underworld turns against them.

But the narratives quickly intertwine when, Rivas, playing himself and sporting iconic War-



Photo by Steve Solomonson

On the set: Eric Rivas and his unorthodox film crew — the Metal Militia, God’s Only Demons, Dukes, Filthy Mad Dogs, and They’re F----- Crazy motorcycle clubs — flash their colors.

## FILM

“Lost in Coney Island” at the Coney Island Museum [1208 Surf Ave. between Stillwell Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island; (718) 372-5159; www.coneyisland.com] Sept. 22, 4 p.m. \$7.

rior colors, makes an eerie premonition.

“Sometimes, it’s like life imitates art,” he says to another crew member. “It’s almost like, before you know it, the movie is real. I’ve seen it happen before, bro, it’s weird.”

He isn’t wrong.

As it turns out, Rivas’s production assistant

(718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**TALK, FRANK BRUNI:** The NY Times op ed columnist and author leads a discussion of his travels. **Free.** 11 am–12:30 p.m. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St., between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200], <https://www.sfc.edu>.

**READING, NOVEL DEBUT:** Writer Jay Caspian Kang presents his debut novel, *The Dead Do Not Improve*. Chef/provocateur Eddie Huang joins him for a discussion. **Free.** 7 p.m. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com).

## FRI, SEPT. 28

**READING, CONTEMPORARY PHOTO EXHIBIT:** Top fine art and documentary photographers based in the city. **Free.** 6 p.m. Babeland [462 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope], 99problemsbutavibrator.eventbrite.com.

**TALK, CRIMINAL CORPSES:** In this talk, Sarah Tarlow will examine the power of the criminal corpse through its journey from the gallows. \$12. 7:30 p.m.

bledog.org.

**DINING, NEW RESTAURANT OPENS:** Prospect will offer an ambitious addition to Brooklyn’s emerging New-American culinary scene, with casually set fine dining and specialty drinks. Prospect [773 Fulton St. in Fort Greene], [www.prospectbk.com](http://www.prospectbk.com).

**MOON FESTIVAL:** The Chinese Social Adult Day Care program celebrates Zhongqiu Jie, a traditional Chinese holiday. **Free.** 10 am. Kings Bay YM-YWHA [3495 Nostrand Ave. between Avenue U and V in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 648-7703 X225].

**GET BARCLAI** — **BARCLAYS CENTER OPENING NIGHT PARTY:** To get in the spirit of the new Barclays Center sports arena, enjoy ice cold beer while we raffle toys to help you improve your game. **Free.** 6 p.m. Babeland [462 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope], 99problemsbutavibrator.eventbrite.com.

**TALK, CRIMINAL CORPSES:** In this talk, Sarah Tarlow will examine the power of the criminal corpse through its journey from the gallows. \$12. 7:30 p.m.

Observatory (543 Union St. at Nevins Street), [atlasobscura.com/blog/Obscura-Society-NYC-The-Powerful-Corpse](http://atlasobscura.com/blog/Obscura-Society-NYC-The-Powerful-Corpse).

**TV PARTY:** Remember that show “Sabrina the Teenage Witch?” Well, here’s your chance to watch it again, and dance to 90s pop. dance, hip-hop, rock, and R & B! **Free.** 10 p.m. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], [www.thebellhouseeny.com](http://www.thebellhouseeny.com).

## SAT, SEPT. 29

**DANCE STUDIO OPEN HOUSE:** Free classes for all ages and abilities. **Free.** 12–7:30 PM. Gallim Dance [520 Clinton Ave. in Clinton Hill, (718) 622-2165], [www.gallimdance.com](http://www.gallimdance.com).

**THEATER, HIT FINNISH PLAY:** Broken Heart story is about art and love. \$18. 7 p.m. Center For Performance Research [361 Manhattan Ave. (718) 349-1210], [www.cprnyc.org](http://www.cprnyc.org).

**WORKSHOP, FREE CLASS:** Learn to use Adobe Lightroom. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition [499 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 596-2506], [www.bwac.org](http://www.bwac.org).

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

### MON, SEPT. 24

**READING, BOOKS ‘N BLOGGERS:** Author Seth Greenland to discuss his book, “The Angry Buddhist.” **Free.** 7:30 p.m. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).

### TUES, SEPT. 25

**CAROL LIPNIK AND SPOOKORAMA:** Authentic Coney Island Parlor Punk. \$10 suggested donation. 7 p.m. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com).

**READING, SECRET SCIENCE CLUB:** Astrophysicist and author of “Gravity’s Engines” Caleb Scharf. **Free.** 7:30 p.m. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], [www.thebellhouseeny.com](http://www.thebellhouseeny.com).

**THEATER, SEXY STORYTELL-**

**ING:** True stories about queer sex, desire and romance. **Free.** 8 p.m. Public Assembly [70 N. 6th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-4586], [www.publicassemblynyc.com](http://www.publicassemblynyc.com).

**SLAVIC SOUL PARTY:** Fiery Gypsy brass, soulful Balkan anthems, and hip-grinding American funk. \$10 suggested donation. 9 p.m. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com).

### WED, SEPT. 26

**READING, PITCHAPALOOZA:** 20 writers will be selected at random from the sign-up list to pitch their book for one minute to a panel of judges. **Free.** 7 p.m. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], [wordbrooklyn.com](http://wordbrooklyn.com).

**ENTERTAINMENT, TRIVIA:** Think you’re an expert on your borough? Join a Brooklyn trivia night to support a good cause. **Free.** 7 p.m. 61Local (61 Bergen St. in Cobble Hill), [bktvriat-akedown.eventbrite.com](http://bktvriat-akedown.eventbrite.com).

**FILM, BATTLE FOR BROOKLYN:** Film about the very public and passionate fight

waged by residents and business owners of Brooklyn’s historic Prospect Heights neighborhood. \$5 suggested donation. 7:30–9 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West in Prospect Park, (718) 768-2972], [schedule.filmwax.com](http://schedule.filmwax.com).

**READING, ZADIE SMITH’S GOT A NEW BOOK:** Scribe of the moment and Britisher Zadie Smith discusses her new book, “NW.” **Free.** 8 p.m. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).

**WRITING WORKSHOP:** Three months of classes focused on crafting personal stories about family. \$400. 8 p.m. The Bookmark Shoppe [8415 Third St. in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115], [www.bookmarkshoppe.com](http://www.bookmarkshoppe.com).

### THURS, SEPT. 27

**FILM, “REPORTERO”:** Documentary by Bernardo Ruiz, 60 min. Free with museum admission. 7 p.m. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Crown Heights,

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PARENT

# Start with the man in the mirror

The new school year brings the usual pangs of Park Slope Mom concern. What, besides amateur wrestling on my living room floor, will my boys do in the afternoons? How will I foster their interests and skills and pad their portfolios to get into a top high school so they can make it to top college so they can make it in life?

Sleep eludes me as I count on my fingers the possible things we can do: pottery classes, private piano with some guitar thrown in, helping out with chess at his elementary, oh, and isn't there a sport Mr. E wants to get into?

"No, no, no," he has said as I've rattled them off: "Tennis? Karate? Gymnastics?"

I've thrown these things out tentatively, nervous if I could even find the places to teach him such skills that aren't \$800 and don't require the daily commitment of an Olympic hopeful.

Mostly toddler activities come up when I Google "middle school after-school activities Park Slope" at 4 am. A few hours later, I am bleary-eyed as I blend the morning's fresh fruit smoothies and heat up whole-grain breads, as I pack new lunch boxes with made-to-order meals with lots of fruits and veggies.

I wave to the boys when they head off on the bus when it finally hits me: what am I so worried about? My kids have it incredibly good — and



## Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

there are literally millions of kids around this great city that aren't so lucky.

I remind myself by meeting with Sarah Stevens, head of education for Change for Kids, a company that aims to improve the more than 500 public schools where the majority of students are under poverty line. I gave up my library committee position at my own kids' school last year

in favor of tutoring and event planning at one of the less-privileged elementary schools with which it works.

It is not an easy task, but every new sports program they put in place, every Brooklyn author I can bring in to show kids writing is a real-life thing real people do, every single person they get to volunteer to read with kids one-on-one and help beleaguered teach-

ers do the hard work of inspiring children to love to learn, makes me feel a little happier. Doing those things is a better use of my time than wringing my hands over how my kids can stay privileged.

A neighbor shook her head recently when we were talking about public education and said, wide-eyed, "I don't understand why all schools don't offer the same services?"

I smiled at the question, a simple one that clearly isn't asked often enough by enough people. I told her about Change for Kids. I told her it would take many minds to create a great template with well-thought-out programming that includes arts and exercise and nutrition and visits from local authors.

These are the things that excite and inspire, the things that the private money pays for at my own kids' school and the others scattered across the city that have PTAs that worry about such things.

Stevens offered up her own reasoning of what lower-income schools are up against, the Special-Ed needs that need to be met before seemingly "unnecessary" programs like music, the difficulty getting parents involved in some areas, but there is resolve in her eyes. Slowly, one school at a time, it is possible to make change.

But we're the ones that have to make it happen.

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## YOGA...

Continued from page 1

It's all part of a growing movement in which studios tap into super-niche-communities, prompting classes that are to the yoga world what, say, the Teddy Bear Times is the magazine industry.

Cosby said her first class drew 75 students and included discussion about natural hair products, wrapping hair for class, and getting over the "mental barriers" associated with physical appearance.

Some women talked about the perks of going natural instead of expensive hair-straightening procedures, said Crosby, who claims hair-growth-generating yoga postures — and yoga in general — makes locks healthier and less prone to breakage.

More yet-to-be-scheduled classes will likely launch this spring — for free.

"Sometimes you need a detox," she said. "So does your hair."



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

A niche yoga class brought 75 curly haired women to Fort Greene Park for specialized instruction.

## TRIANGLE...

Continued from page 1

But Triangle Sports co-owner Henry Rosa claims the new owners plan to renovate the old building's exterior, but keep the structure standing.

The Benjamins, who graduated from Cornell in 2006, are new to the scene — however they have already acquired 170 apartments in the borough and hundreds of thousands of square footage of commercial space.

Bernstein and Stokes' company recently joined forces with other buyers to purchase a coveted Bedford Avenue parcel between N. Third and N. Fourth streets in Williamsburg for \$66 mil-

lion — a site across the street from a planned Whole Foods that has been floated in rumors as a possible home for J. Crew, or even Brooklyn's first Apple store.

Bernstein was also savvy enough to build a pier at the foot of a property he owns and plans to develop into two luxury waterfront towers in Greenpoint — part of a local portfolio that includes 100 apartments and 15 condo units — so the ferry could add a local stop, according to the New York Times.

Property experts said the impressive price of the Triangle Sports building — formerly a quaint sporting goods and workwear shop owned by

the same family for the past 96 years — is a sign that arena's arrival has put the real estate market into overdrive.

"[That's a] huge number," said Chris Havens, a legendary downtown real estate broker.

Even the real estate men who brokered the sale said they were impressed with

the sum.

"It was a very strong offer," said Geoff Bailey, a director at Terra CRG. "When it records, it will be a record for a vacant three-story building in Brooklyn — \$900 a square foot for a vacant retail property is outstanding, throughout the borough and beyond."

## TRASH...

Continued from page 1

rodents, including adding more frequent refuse train collections, reinforcing storage rooms, and using new, tamper-proof receptacles but the problem still persists," spokesman Charles Seaton said in a statement

The agency also removed garbage cans at the Brighton Beach B and Q train station in recent weeks.

"We're asking riders ... to be part of the solution by taking their trash with them out of the system for disposal," the agency said.

## LIBRARY...

Continued from page 1

this summer.

"We were having problems with a couple of the air conditioners throughout the system. We were able to address the others, but the Brooklyn Heights one turned out to be the biggest challenge," said Carey.

Not only is the aging cooling system a veteran compared to newer, more reliable ACs

— the Cadman Plaza West branch sees about 2,000 patrons a day, which means quite a bit of cool air is lost in the opening and closing of doors.

As a result, library staff must measure the safety of the building every day not only based on temperatures, but also by how hot it feels inside. And with so many muggy, humid days this sum-

mer, it has often gotten downright oppressive in there — even with fans on full blast.

It hit a toasty 82.8 degrees during a library visit by The Brooklyn Paper on Tuesday, which is much cooler than the 100 degrees recorded by a reporter for our sister publication, the New York Post, in July.

"It truly feels like an oven in here," Brooklyn Heights reader Diane Graglia told the tabloid at the time.

To help keep the branch rolling despite the broiling,

the library brought in a truck loaded with books, where librarians accept returns and loan texts outside of the often sweltering building.

The weather has cooled down a bit, but there could still be warm days ahead — and the library typically leaves the air conditioning on in all of its branches through mid-October, said Carey.

But there is some good news for book lovers: the library plans to install a new air conditioner before next summer.

## DI FARA...

Continued from page 1

personally cooked for them. That's special."

Employees at the Midwood pizzeria say the private parties came about by accident.

"One person asked us to do it, and we did, and then another, and then another, so we decided to do it regularly now," said Margaret De Marco, who works alongside her 75-year-old father — who still makes nearly every pie himself. "It's a tight space, but people have been having a great time."

Di Fara's private parties, which do not include booze, appetizers, or dessert — soda is extra — are quite intimate, Margaret says. The eatery's tables are shoved together to provide a banquet-style experience, and every two people get to share one pie. For anyone who's ever split a

Di Fara pie, they know that's probably enough, said Margaret, who promises that her father will continue to make pizzas until everyone is absolutely full.

"It's kind of unlimited," she said. "We just keep bringing out different kinds of pies."

Longtime fans of Di Fara Pizza who don't think twice about forking over \$5 a slice, and nearly went into pizza withdrawal last year when the restaurant was temporarily closed by the city for a slew of health code violations, have been renting the restaurant out for birthday parties, anniversaries, and the always popular "we love Di Fara pizza" parties — but the main draw is always the unfettered access one has to the pontiff of pizza himself, Dom De Marco.

Margaret says her dad, who is famous for not addressing

customers or looking up from his creations, doesn't mind it when the spotlight is on him.

"He gets nervous about it, but I tell him you're doing the same thing you always do," she said. "Instead of making 30 pies for different people, it's 30 pies for the same group

of people."

Di Fara fans worrying that they won't be able to get a slice when a private party is in full swing shouldn't fret, Margaret says. The pizzeria will keep its window open to serve other customers, so long as they wait outside.

## THOMAS...

Continued from page 1

"The people on his block got a much better appreciation of the neighborhood through his stories," said his daughter Marie D'Alessio.

He also supported Our Lady of Peace church on Fourth Avenue and could be spotted buying goodies for kids on the block until he died in 2008, his son said.

Neighbors are now petitioning the city to honor his memory by co-naming part of the street "Thomas

A. D'Alessio Way."

His daughter thinks that adding the middle initial will help resolve any potential internet mix up — especially because the other Thomas's middle name begins with a "J," as in "jail."

That way, future generations will know what the name Thomas A. D'Alessio stood for — even if neighbors who knew him don't need a reminder.

"People on the block will know it's him," she said.

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## BIKES...

Continued from page 1

hoppers — who can be spotted on weekday mornings hauling the carts by hand — add another hazard to an already treacherous cycling street deemed the borough's scariest bike lane by Brooklyn Paper readers due to its frequently

blocked path.

Some street vendors even block bike lanes while towing their carts by car, including one photographed by The Brooklyn Paper on Bergen Street in Gowanus.

Cart operators contend that using the bike lane is quicker than navigating

crowded sidewalks — and that their meals on wheels only briefly obstruct the bike path.

"It's only for five minutes," said one coffee and doughnuts vendor, who declined to give his name.

But cyclists who have long fought for safer streets say lane-blocking vendors are more likely to make them eat dirt than doughnuts — and that it only takes a

few second to injure or kill someone.

Bike boosters now want cops to more strictly enforce rules that bar automobiles and mobile restaurateurs alike from impeding cycling paths, saying it's a major safety concern.

"Any time a bike lane is obstructed, it creates a hazard for cyclists," said bicycling activist Eric McClure.

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**ATTENTION RESIDENTS & NEIGHBORS:** Forty-Forty No More Enterprises, Inc., Con Amore Cabaret, located at 18 Commerce Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231, has applied for a license to serve liquor, wine and beer and a cabaret license. There will be an opportunity for public comment at Brooklyn Community Board 6's Permits & Licenses Committee Meeting, taking place on September 24, 2012 at 6:30pm, Micro Center, 110 West 9th Street (between Clinton & Henry Street). For more information about this application, feel free to contact Cynthia Dicks, 917-579-9210 or Earl Dicks, 917-929-5266 .

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